



www.GeorgiaStateParks.org

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division
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September 14, 2006

Town Hall Meetings – The Future of Outdoor Recreation in Georgia

Georgia SCORP 2008 - 2013

Dear Friends of Outdoor Recreation:

Georgia's unique natural environment offers varied outdoor recreation opportunities for both residents and visitors to enjoy. Public recreational resources provided at the city, county, state and federal level are intrinsic and critical to the health and well-being of our state. They enhance our quality of life, protect our environment and help make tourism a top industry in Georgia.

Georgia's steady growth presents a challenge to state and local governments and other organizations working to meet the ever-increasing demand for outdoor recreational opportunities. To ensure continued service to current and future Georgians, the Department of Natural Resources' Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) formulates a comprehensive statewide recreation policy every five years. This policy is contained within the Georgia Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), a plan that also makes the state eligible to receive and distribute federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF grants support state, county and city outdoor recreation projects in three categories: land acquisition, development and rehabilitation. Georgia's current SCORP expires in September 2007.

PRHSD has partnered with the University of Georgia, local communities statewide and many other organizations to develop **SCORP 2008 - 2013**. Through this collaborative process we will conduct a thorough assessment of Georgia's outdoor recreation opportunities. **SCORP 2008 – 2013** will reflect the attitudes, needs, and priorities for and about outdoor recreation in Georgia as well as set the direction for the future of outdoor recreation statewide.

A key component of the SCORP update process is public input. Through surveys, public meetings and stakeholder focus groups we want to learn:

- Why outdoor recreation is important to Georgians
- What types of outdoor recreation activities Georgians participate in
- What types of outdoor recreation activities Georgians would participate in but cannot because their area lacks the opportunities
- What Georgians think should be done to improve outdoor recreation in their area
- Georgian's level of support for new or improved outdoor recreational opportunities.

*Celebrating 75 Years of protecting Georgia's natural beauty and historic integrity
while providing opportunities for public enjoyment and education.*

To provide Georgians with the opportunity to speak their minds about outdoor recreation and participate in the SCORP update process, we will be conducting a series of town hall meetings this fall. The meeting dates and locations are as follows:

- Oct. 12 Piedmont Park Conservancy Community Center—1071 Piedmont Ave, Atlanta
- Oct. 19 Southwest Georgia RDC Board Room—30 West Broad St., Camilla
- Oct. 26 Liberty Theater Cultural Center—321 8th Ave., Columbus
- Nov. 9 The Stellar Center Conference Center—125 Venture Dr., I-95 Exit 38, Brunswick
- Nov. 16 Old Capital Building, Georgia Military College—201 E. Greene Street, Milledgeville
- Nov. 30 Tallulah Gorge State Park—338 Jane Hurt Yarn Dr., Hwy 441, Tallulah Falls
- Dec. 7 Rome Civic Center—400 Civic Center Dr., Rome

All meetings will start at 6 p.m. and conclude by 7:30 p.m. Please plan to attend one in your area and encourage those in your community to come and give their input on this important issue. If you are unable to attend one of the public meetings, we invite you to register your thoughts at the link provided on our website: www.GeorgiaStateParks.org.

For additional information regarding **SCORP 2008 - 2013** or the upcoming town hall meetings, please contact Langford D. Holbrook with the University of Georgia's Fanning Institute at (706) 542-6118 or by email at lholbrook@fanning.uga.edu. You may also contact Antoinette Norfleet in our PRHSD Atlanta office at (404) 656-3830 or at Antoinette.Norfleet@dnr.state.ga.us for assistance.

Sincerely,
Becky Kelley
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Director

- C: Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor
 Honorable Ross Tolleson, Senate Natural Resources Committee Chair
 Honorable Bob Lane, House of Representatives Game, Fish and Parks Committee Chair
 Members, Georgia Congressional Delegation
 Members, Georgia Board of Natural Resources
 Noel Holcomb, DNR Commissioner
 Edwelyn Dooley-Higgins, National Parks Service